



3/12/07  
(17)

## **Acton Memorial Library**

**486 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720  
(978) 264-9641/9642 TDD 635-0072**

January 22, 2007

Mr. Walter Foster, Chairman  
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

- Attachments:
1. Biography of Yusef Komunyakaa
  2. 2007 Creeley Award Estimated Expenses and Proposed Funding
  3. Note from former ABRHS student, Mark Schafer
  4. Email from Karen Kucala, Finance Department
  5. Approval of expenditure from the Georgia Whitney Fund

Dear Walter,

The Literary Arts Committee of the AML Board of Trustees request the approval of the Board of Selectmen to use some of the accumulated earnings in the Georgia Whitney Fund, which are designated to be used to fund cultural events that benefit the students and citizens of Acton, to help fund this year's Robert Creeley Award poetry reading.

The Robert Creeley Award winner this year, Yusef Komunyakaa, is a particularly distinguished poet, having been awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977-1989*. He has been a professor at Princeton University and is now Distinguished Senior Poet on the faculty of New York University's Graduate Creative Writing Program. He will read in Acton the evening of March 28 and visit the Acton-Boxborough High School on March 29.

The Robert Creeley Award events have been among the most popular cultural events in the area, and the interaction between our high school students and the poets has had an important educational value. This year four students joined the Literary Arts Committee and have been of great help in planning this year's event. Perhaps most importantly they organized a poetry competition in the school that has resulted in an ABRHS student reading as an opening poet, for the first time.

The attached note from Mark Schafer (son of long-time Acton residents Alice and the late Bert Schafer) well expresses what this event has meant to him and the civic pride he feels because Acton has supported such an outstanding event.

The cost this year is estimated to be \$3,700. (itemized list attached). As in previous years, we have asked for funding from : Community Education, the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, the Friends of the Acton Libraries, and the Acton Memorial Library

Foundation. We are also asking the Board of Selectmen, Bill Ryan and Steve Donovan and to approve the use of some of the earnings from the Georgia Whitney Fund. The attached email from Karen Kucala shows that the Whitney Fund currently has accumulated income of \$23,954.86.

We hope the Board of Selectmen will agree that the event is of great value to the community and the schools, and will approve this expenditure.

Sincerely,

Frank Joyner, Trustee  
Acton Memorial Library

## **Approval of Expenditure from Georgia E. Whitney Fund**

The will which established the Georgia E. Whitney Fund, named an advisory board consisting of the members of the Board of Selectmen, the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of the high school. This board is to review and consider requests for expenditures from the fund for events of a cultural and educational nature for the benefit of the citizens of Acton and the students of the Acton schools.

The undersigned have reviewed such a request for \$750 to be expended to support the 2007 Robert Creeley Day poetry reading to be held in Acton on March 28, 2007, and approve this request.

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Walter Foster, Chairman  
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen

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Date

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William Ryan, Superintendent  
Acton & Acton-Boxborough Schools

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Date

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Steven Donovan, Principal  
Acton-Boxborough High School

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Date

THE GEORGIA E. WHITNEY MEMORIAL FUND

Accepted at Town Meeting Nov. 17, 1958

TED: To accept the gift of Fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars, made to the Inhabitants of the Town of Acton by Section 2 of Clause C of the Thirty-second item of the will of Jennie A. Tuttle, late of Somerville, Mass., deceased, the same to be forever safely invested and held and known as "The Georgia E. Whitney Memorial Fund" and the income therefrom forever used, all as set forth in said Section 2 of Clause C as follows: "To provide education and uplifting instruction and influence for the pupils of the Acton High School and through such school for the inhabitants of the Town of Acton. I direct that the method of spending this income shall be left to the discretion of an advisory board consisting of members of the Board of Selectmen, the principal of the High School and the Superintendent of Schools having supervision of said High School, all in said Town of Acton. A majority of said Board shall decide all questions. I recommend that the purposes above set forth be accomplished either by maintaining a course of free lectures each year to be given in said Town of Acton primarily for the benefit of said pupils, the members of their families and their teachers, but incidentally for other residents of said Town who may be accommodated thereat, or by providing special instruction in music, in the arts or industry or any combination of all of said methods or a part of them or such other methods as said Advisory Board shall deem best from time to time. It is my desire that said income be used to provide for such pupils, their families and their teachers in said Town of Acton educational advantages which would not be furnished by said Town and which they probably would not otherwise have, such as the best thought concerning government, law, jurisprudence, ethics, moral standards, fine arts, science, industry and the better things of life. I do not desire that this income be so expended that it will be used for general maintenance of said High School nor lessen the burdens of taxation."

more time to review this document. Lauren said the purpose of this was to give BOA a chance to ask other boards what they think and then make their decision about the waiving of some items to facilitate the projects. Steve said that the BOA has the power to reject this or accept these regulations. Steve asked that the BOS send a memo to BOA to see if they will review. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

**BROOKSIDE SHOPS TRAFFIC LIGHT** - Don spoke about sending out a letter reminding them about the traffic signal commitment. ANDREW MAGEE - Moved to send the letter. DORE' HUNTER -second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL** - Andy Magee outlined the letter that was sent to Carlisle and Westford discussing the contracts for services. The BRRT Voted to offer \$5,000 for review and defray the required services. Tom Michlaeman asked for help in phrasing the Gift for Board acceptance.

**POWERS GALLERY REQUEST FOR SUPPORT** - Letter of support to Mass Highway for street cut relief - DORE' HUNTER - Moved to approve the letter as written. LAUREN ROSENZWEIG - second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**ACTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - The Board asked to have staff report back after more review, and suggested the possible use of the Town Hall Lot for this purpose on Patriots Day. It was noted that the Lot in South Acton fills even on Patriots Day as it is not a holiday for everyone.

**GEORGIA WHITNEY FUND REQUEST** - The Acton Memorial Library is asking for \$750 for the Creely poetry reading program. DORE' HUNTER - Moved to approve the Grant of \$750 for the event. ANDREW MAGEE - second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Herman Kabakoff took note of expenses for chairs and felt the \$250 allotted for Chairs could be lessened if they used chairs we already have. The Board will pass his suggestion on to the Acton Memorial Library Director.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Lauren updated the public about a series of zoning hearings at the Planning Board meeting in the Library.

Lauren spoke about the Commuter Rail Forum, there was standing room only. The committee will be looking and gathering information they might need.

Andy spoke about Bruce Freeman Rail Trail letter that was sent out to Carlisle and Westford and noted they will be meeting tomorrow night.

Andy spoke about his breakfast at the Senior Center. He also toured the facilities. John, Steve and Brian will be going up to the Senior Center on Wednesday at 12:30 to discuss taxes and programs available to seniors.

Dore' reported on the commuter meeting and the rail line issues.

ALG tomorrow morning. Walter will be attending since the chair is out of town. Walter will bring back any items to the Board for discussion.

Morrison Meeting, 50 people attended and will meet again Feb 16, at the Public Safety Building at 7:30 p.m. to talk about the historical importance of the Morrison Property.

## Christine Joyce

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**From:** Frank Joyner [frankjoyner@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2007 1:49 PM  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**Cc:** Marcia Rich  
**Subject:** Approval for expenditure from Georgia Whitney Fund



2007 (676 B)



2007 Whitney Fund  
Approval (67...

Dear Walter,

On January 22 I wrote you on behalf of the Acton Memorial Library Board of Trustees and the Literary Arts Committee of the Board asking the Board of Selectmen to approve the expenditure of some of the accumulated income in the Georgia Whitney Fund to partially fund this year's Robert Creeley Award event. (A copy of the letter is attached.)

The provisions of this trust designate the Superintendent of Schools, the Principal of the high school and the Board of Selectmen as an advisory board to consider requests for use of earnings from this fund to support cultural events for the benefit of the citizens and students of Acton.

Bill Ryan and Steve Donovan gave their approval and we have an approval form signed by them in hand. However it does not appear that the BoS has yet acted on our request. Since the event will take place on March 28, we are eager for the Board to consider the request as soon as possible. If it is possible please consider it at your next meeting.

I have attached a copy on an approval form, but have not attached all of the other attachments to my letter as I assume the letter and attachments are in the Board's files. Should you want another copy of the letter and all attachments, I would be happy to drop one off at Town Hall.

Thank you for your help.

Frank Joyner